

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 13-30 are pending in this application. Claims 5-12 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 14 has been amended. Claims 17-30 have been withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 5-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0034094), and Claims 1-4 and 13-16 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-4 and 13-16.

Claims 5-12 have been canceled without prejudice by the present Amendment.

Claim 14 has been amended to correct a minor informality.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)